

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



Good Bye, Bob!

Our Consul, Bob Pope, will return to the USA on March 6, 2010, after completing his 2-year tour in Mongolia.

Thank you, Bob, for supporting your staff, being a great boss and all the charity and outreach activities you have done in Mongolia! Consular section and Verbist children will miss you a lot!

We wish you and your family all the best at your new assignment!

Consular Section staff

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My wife, Pernille, and I will be leaving Mongolia on March 6 for our next assignment in Charleston, SC, at the National Passport Center.

Our time in Mongolia has been very pleasant and rewarding and we will really miss the many wonderful friends we have made here. We have found the Mongolian people to be incredibly warm and welcoming people who have shown us great kindness. We have both enjoyed our work at the Embassy and in the Mongolia community and are especially thankful for the opportunity to have met so many fascinating Americans.

Mongolia is a very special place that attracts unique and interesting people. We will return to the US with many intriguing stories and fantastic memories.

- Bob Pope, Consul

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CONSULAR SERVICES

The Department Of State published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on February 9, 2010, stating its intent to adjust the Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, including passports, immigrant visas and services to American citizens. After a 30-day period for public comment, the Department will thoroughly review and consider any comments received from the public, and consider whether any changes to the proposed rule are warranted as a result.

Proposed changes to **existing fees** are as follows:

- The total charge for a first-time passport book for an adult will increase from \$100 to \$135;
- The total charge for an adult passport book renewal will increase from \$75 to \$110;
- The total charge for a minor passport book (age 16 and under) will increase from \$85 to \$105;
- The fee for a file search and verification of U.S. citizenship will increase from \$60 to \$150;
- Application fee for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad will change from \$65 to \$100;
- The fee to make arrangements for a deceased non-U.S. citizen will be \$200 plus expenses, previously charged at the consular time rate of \$265 plus expenses;
- The immigrant visa (IV) application fee - which must be collected from all applicants for immigrant visas who are not fee-exempt - will be tiered. The new fees will be \$330 for immediate relative and family preference cases, \$720 for employment-based cases and \$305 for other cases (special IVs, Diversity Visas (DVs), self-petitioned cases);
- The immigrant visa security surcharge - which must be collected from all applicants for immigrant visas who are not fee-exempt - will increase from \$45 to \$74; The DV fee (which is charged in addition to the application processing fee and security surcharge) will change from \$375 to \$440; The fee for affidavit of support review by NVC will increase from \$70 to \$88;
- The fee to determine returning resident status will decrease from \$400 to \$380;
- Notarial and authentication services, which now range from \$20 to \$30, will all be \$50.

5. **New fees** are:

- \$82 for extra passport pages; and
- There will be a \$450 fee to document formal renunciation of U.S.

The proposed fee changes are discussed here:

Comments on those proposed fees must be submitted to the Department directly in one of the following manners:

- Persons with access to the Internet may view the notice and submit comments by going to the regulations.gov web site at: <http://www.regulations.gov/index.cfm>.
- Mail: U.S. Department of State, Office of the Executive Director, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Suite H1001, 2401 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20520.
- E-mail: fees@state.gov . You must include the RIN (1400- C58) in the subject line of your message.

Warden Volunteers Needed

Consular Section is looking for Warden Volunteers in Ulaanbaatar and Aimags. The United States warden system is not for the benefit of the Embassy, but for the American citizens living in Mongolia. The wardens in each district play an important role in the case of an emergency by contacting American citizens in a district to ensure timely distribution of important information. It is a way for Americans to look after each other which is particularly important in a place like Mongolia due to the distances between cities and difficult travel conditions.

A more informal task would be to convey news of social or informational gatherings at the Embassy.

If you are currently a Warden or would like to be one, please send a message to

UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov

It is understandable that many of us are busy and only a few people will have the time to take on additional responsibilities. The Embassy would appreciate your consideration for this important role. It also could be a great opportunity for you to take a few hours out of each quarter to become more familiar with American citizen neighbors, which might prove to be a rewarding experience.



Pickpockets In Ulaanbaatar: How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

The first rule of thumb is **don't have anything more in your wallet than you are willing to lose**. Try to keep only what is essential: ONE piece of identification, and no more than \$40-50 in local currency. Mongolia is largely a cash society. There is no need to always carry your ATM or credit card in your wallet unless you know that you will be making a credit card or ATM card transaction. A hair brush can be easily replaced, but something like your passport or your credit card is much more difficult and its loss can cause much grief. Make a copy, front and back, of everything that you have in your wallet. In case something happens, you have all the numbers and contact information to cancel your cards.

Ladies, **only carry purses that zip**. Carry your purse tightly under your arm and slightly in front of you. If you have the backpack-type purse, swing it around so that it is slightly in front of you as well. Gents, put a **rubber band around your wallet and put it in your front pocket**. This is going to make it extremely difficult for someone to get it out without you knowing.

Pickpockets actively observe their targets before striking. If you are someone who walks through the streets talking on their cell phone, pushing through crowds, or interacting with street vendors then from the perspective of a pickpocket **you are a person easily distracted and an easy target**. By avoiding crowds, crossing the street or altering your path multiple times, looking over your shoulder, and observing your environment, you will notice surveillance and reduce your chances of being a victim. Finally, at all cost avoid letting strangers (pedestrians, street children, vendors) touch you or make any type of physical contact.

Be Aware!

The three most likely places to get pick pocketed are close to major tourist hotels and attractions: Seoul Street, Suhbaatar Square, and State Department store. Pickpockets work in groups. They are often young street children, encouraged and trained by their parents to target visiting tourists. They can be groups of young girls or boys and teenagers.

If you do have your pocket picked, don't chase down whoever you think stole your wallet. Remember, they work in groups. Your wallet was most likely handed off before you realized it was gone. If you chase down and grab who you think is the culprit and he/she doesn't have your wallet, you could cause a minor incident to escalate into a confrontation with an unknown suspect or suspects who could be possibly armed.

Here are some of the tactics the pickpockets use:

In the marketplace/street corners: You will be surrounded by several people all trying to move around you while you are walking. While someone brushes up or bumps up against you, his/her partner on the opposite side is picking your pocket.

On the street: The most frequently used tactic here is the distraction technique. Two or more people will approach you and ask for directions, try to sell you stuff, or just crowd you. While you are occupied and distracted with one person, another is picking your pocket. Another technique is to have something thrown or spilled on you, like water or ice cream. Someone will approach you and offer to help clean you up. Another person then picks your pocket while you are distracted.

Pickpockets target many of us because we stand out and look like we have money and cell phones. Just be aware of your surroundings and your belongings at all times. If you know you are going to a particularly touristy spot, leave as much at home as you can.

Courtesy Regional Security Officer

"The supreme treasure is knowledge, the middle treasure is children, and the lowest treasure is material wealth." - Mongolian proverb

2010-2011 Voting Assistance Guide

The Consular Section has received a limited number of 2010-2011 Voting Assistance Guide. You can pick up your copy at the Consular section during ACS hours or at the American Corner at Ulaanbaatar Public Library on Seoul St.

The Guide is also available at [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) web site.

Tips on Applying for CRBA

Congratulations on the birth of your child! As soon as possible after your child's birth, you should apply for his/her citizenship documents. Here are some tips on how to apply for your child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) and passport. A "CRBA," is the overseas equivalent of a U.S. birth certificate for those children born overseas to at least one U.S. citizen parent

If **BOTH** parents are U.S. citizens and married, you will need to bring:

- Evidence of your child's birth (the hospital birth certificate) – the original Mongolian document + 2 copies;
- Evidence of the U.S. citizenship of the parent (s) - original + 2 copies;
- Evidence of marriage — original marriage certificate and evidence of legal termination of any previous marriages, if applicable;
- Photos of your child for the passport (2"x 2" – white background);
- [Form DS-2029](#) - Application for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad;
- [Form DS-11](#)— Application for a U.S. Passport
- Form [SS-5-FS](#)— Application for a Social Security Card;
- Fees: \$150.00 (dollars or tugrug). Please pay when you come in for an interview.

If only **one parent is a U.S. citizen** and you are married, in addition to the above, you will also need to bring proof that the U.S. citizen parent has physically resided in the U.S. for at least five years (at least 2 years after the age of 14) or has worked overseas for the U.S. government or military. Typically, the kind of documents that we accept as such proof include (but are not limited to) the following:

- U.S. school records and/or university transcripts (not diplomas);
- U.S. tax returns with accompanying W-2 forms;
- U.S. government or military service records (i.e., LES or DD-214) Evidence of having been the unmarried dependent of a U.S. government employee stationed abroad

For all other circumstances or for more info, please visit our website at http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/report_of_birth.html



Become a fan of **U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar, Consular Section** on Facebook.

Tsagaan Sar Visit to Verbist



As many of you know, the Consular Section together with the U.S. Marines have been collecting toys, clothes, backpacks and school supplies, children's books and food staples for Verbist Children Center.

With your great support we had an excellent result! Special thanks go to IWAM, ASU, ISU and Millie's Café for going extra mile and encouraging people to donate to this deserving charity! Consular Section and Marines also thank STAR apartments children and CLO Mike Vining for decorating the boxes.

All the gifts were delivered to Verbist on February 9th, so that all the kids get their Tsagaan Sar gifts. Children and Sister Lucille appreciate all the support and assistance they get.

A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslist. Your membership in the Embassy Newslist will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential.

Send an email to the Embassy at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

Upcoming Holidays

March 8 – International Women's Day

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11320-776
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
Washington, DC, 20521-4410



Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Central African Republic](#) 02/26/2010

[Yemen](#) 02/25/2010

[Iraq](#) 02/25/2010 [Haiti](#) 02/22/2010

[Saudi Arabia](#) 02/18/2010

[Haiti](#) 02/22/2010

[Chile](#) 02/28/2010

[Mexico - Security](#) 02/22/2010

[India - Security Issues](#) 01/29/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time.

<http://www.flightstats.com/>

Security Delays for U.S. Flights

Flights arriving to and departing from the United States may experience delays due to increased security measures. Passengers should plan to arrive early at airports overseas and in the U.S. For more information on these increased security measures, please see the TSA's website: http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/dec25_guidance.shtm